

since enhanced the lives of so many Central Coast residents. Since that first donation, the, Santa Barbara Foundation has become an organization that provides grants and funds to projects within four fields of interest: Education and Personal Development, Health & Human Services, Culture & Recreation and Environment and Community Enhancement. The Foundation additionally promotes programs that expand opportunities for the less advantaged as well as those that will enhance the lives of youth. In fact, over the last 72 years, more than \$60,000,000 has been distributed in the forms of grants and student financial aid.

There are more than 550 similar foundations throughout the nation, and the Santa Barbara Foundation holds the distinction of ranking among the top 50 oldest and largest such organizations. A board of trustees and a staff of 12 make pertinent decisions and run the operation on a day-to-day basis. And of course, the Foundation could never operate as successfully as it does without the help of the over 100 volunteers that dedicate the most precious resource a non-profit could ask for—their time.

Santa Barbara is extremely fortunate to have an organization of this generosity in its midst. I would like to bestow my sincerest congratulations to the Foundation on its 75th anniversary and wish the organization the very best in the future.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL J. WEBER

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2002

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this moment to pay tribute to Michael Weber and thank him for his many contributions to healthcare and public policy initiatives in Colorado and throughout the nation. As Mike retires from his position at Rocky Mountain HMO, let the record show that I, along with the people of Colorado, appreciate his leadership of healthcare and managed care in rural areas. His dedication and hard work is greatly respected and I am honored to pay tribute to him today in front of this body of Congress. Mike will long be remembered as an effective leader by all who worked with him in the healthcare industry, and he will continue to stand out as a leader in his home community of Grand Junction, Colorado.

During his time as CEO of Rocky Mountain HMO, Mike turned his company into the leader of rural area managed care, growing the company from a one-county organization serving 3200 members in 1975 to one serving over 128,750 statewide today. He was a five-term president of the Colorado Association of HMOs, served ten years on the Board of Directors of the American Medical Care and Review Association, and was a member of the National Task Force on Medical Management. Perhaps a more telling accomplishment is the respect shown by several governors of Colorado—his numerous panel appointments include the Colorado Cost Containment Commission, the Health Advisory Council, and the Statewide Health Coordinating Council.

His involvement in the community has been outstanding as well. Locally, Mike served on

boards for the Grand Junction Area Chamber of Commerce, Mesa National Bank, Rocky Mountain Health Foundation, and the Mesa County Economic Development Council. Perhaps most importantly, Mike is married to his wife Jeannie, and has four children. As he retires from Rocky Mountain HMO, I look forward to him still playing an important role in his community and the healthcare industry because he is a great asset and brings a lot of talent to the table.

Mr. Speaker it is my privilege to rise today to honor this outstanding citizen before this body of Congress and this nation. Mike Weber has shown great dedication and leadership on local and state healthcare matters on up to nationwide issues. I am glad to extend to him my gratitude for all he has accomplished in his field and wish him all the best in his retirement.

TRIBUTE TO COLORADO CLEAN WATER ACTION AND ITS CANVASSERS

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2002

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the important work of Colorado Clean Water Action and the outstanding efforts of many of the group's canvassers who work tirelessly to educate the public and improve the environmental quality of life for all Coloradans.

Clean Water Action is a nationally recognized organization dedicated to enhancing the quality of our environment and especially of our nation's water resources. In arid states like Colorado, water is a precious and scarce commodity. That makes the work of groups like Clean Water Action all the more important. Clean Water Action's efforts to enhance water quality not only benefit humans, they also benefit wildlife and promote a host of other environmental and economic values, such as productive agriculture, wetlands protection and recreation.

Here in Colorado, Clean Water Action has been led by Carmi McLean, an effective and passionate leader for the cause of the environment. Over the past three decades, Carmi has been involved in most if not all of the high profile environmental issues facing Colorado and the nation. She has been active in wilderness protection, reducing pollution and holding polluters accountable for their releases, fighting damaging rollbacks of environmental protection laws and programs such as Superfund, and, of course, in all issues related to water quality. Colorado Clean Water Action has also been involved in these and similar issues since 1989.

Recently, Colorado Clean Water Action has taken up the important, cause of reducing the toxic discharge of heavy metals and acids from old, abandoned hardrock mining operations. These mines, which occur in the hundreds of thousands across the west, have caused impacts to a number of watersheds which oftentimes supply drinking water to many western communities. These releases also can have devastating impacts to the aquatic life of many streams and lakes, which further impacts recreation and the ecological

health of the lands affected by these sites. However, because those responsible for these abandoned, polluting mines cannot be found, most of these mines go on polluting. What's worse, because of the costs of cleanup and the risks of future liability exposure, many entities that would be willing to cleanup these mines are discouraged from taking steps to clean them up.

To address this problem, I have introduced legislation—H.R. 4078 "The Abandoned Hardrock Mines Reclamation Act of 2002"—to facilitate the cleanup of these mines by creating an abandoned mine cleanup fund and a special permit program that would encourage more federal, tribal, state, local and community efforts to clean up these languishing pollution sources. Carmi and her staff at Colorado Clean Water Action recognized the significance of this problem and the value that this legislation would bring to addressing it. As a result, she has made this issue and the need to address it a top priority for the efforts of Colorado Clean Water Action, including many hours of hard work by dedicated young people who canvass door-to-door in Colorado communities letting people know about this issue and what can be done to help address it.

I want to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt thanks to Carmi and her canvassers who have been spending the summer and fall of 2002 working on this issue. Specifically, I want to recognize the following people who have been working especially hard at Colorado Clean Water Action on the abandoned mine waste problem: David Scheck, Brian Dunn, Stoney Bergman, Greg Sobczynski, Katie Tegeler, John De Wees, Nik Haynes, Lindsay Bennett, Noel Jensen, Melinda Miller, Whitney Hanson, Whitney Gann, Eric Hale, Ana Cordova, Courtney Bennett, Amy Addison, Dewey Brown, and Fred Kirsch.

Mr. Speaker, the future of our democracy depends on the active involvement of our young people in the important issues facing our nation. I am pleased that these young people have taken a special interest in this issue and hope that they remain active on environmental protection as well as other issues of importance to them. I believe that it is important for us as leaders and elected officials to stop and take notice of the civic involvement of our young people, recognize the importance of it and encourage more such participation. I also want to thank organizations like Clean Water Action and people like Carmi McLean who provide leadership and an opportunity for young people to participate in our democracy. I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking these young people and Colorado Clean Water Action for their great efforts.

IN MEMORY OF ROBERT W. "RUSTY" NORTON

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2002

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, as we approach year's end, I often think back to dear friends that we have lost this year. One I especially loved, and miss, is the late Robert W. "Rusty" Norton of Longview, Texas, a beloved and outstanding citizen who passed away last January at the young age of 54. Rusty was a